

the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame.

But in 2005, he came down with multiple sclerosis, which was not treatable by conventional therapy. He had to go out of the country for some stem cell treatments. Those were successful. He moved back to this country, continued to live in Ennis, Texas, and stayed active in the community. And about 2 weeks ago, the school board and school superintendent named him, again, to be the head football coach at Ennis High School.

He is a very great coach, but he is also a greater man. He is very Christian. He is good with the kids. He is just an absolute stellar individual.

Congratulations to Coach Sam Harrell, who is, once again, head football coach for the Ennis Lions, who have five State championships in their history.

□ 1700

WE ARE FAILING TO LIVE UP TO OUR CORE VALUES

(Mr. MOULTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, America is keeping kids in cages. America is keeping kids in cages.

Many people across our country have risen to say that this is not who we are. It doesn't represent our values, our ideals, or our Constitution.

But the sad reality is that today, this is who we are. You are an American. I am an American. It is fellow Americans who are ripping toddlers from their mothers and fathers and guarding them in steel cages.

And in truth, we have done this before. We herded American Indians into reservations. We turned our backs on Jews fleeing for their lives from the Holocaust. We ripped children from their parents when we sold them as slaves.

But we all thought we had learned our lessons, moved past those hateful times. We have been on a march to grow into a country with the courage to live up to our values and serve as a beacon of hope for the world, not repeat the darkest parts of our history.

The families in these detention centers aren't fleeing to the U.S. to take our jobs, they are running for their lives. They are fleeing a world of racism, ransom, murder, where their sons are being forced into violent gangs, and their daughters are being stolen on their way to school and prostituted as sex slaves.

A nation that fails to learn the lessons of history, that fails to live up to its core values, that can't abide by the rights enshrined in its own Constitution, is not strong, Mr. Speaker, it is weak.

Today, we are stealing kids from their parents and we are weak.

And although it is this administration's policy that is directly respon-

sible for this disgusting practice, we are all guilty as fellow Americans so long as it goes on.

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These are our core values. Let's live up to them today.

MEMORIALIZING MARTIN MARTINEZ

(Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize Martin Martinez and to draw attention to his story and his struggle.

Martin lived for over 30 years here in the United States. He worked hard, paid taxes, learned English. He had two beautiful American children, one of them, Maria, worked for the people of the United States, the House of Representatives, and for me.

Martin was a good American, but he was also an undocumented immigrant, and even though he was putting himself at risk and he knew it, he and his wife self-reported to the government to declare their status. They followed every instruction they were given, and they stayed out of any kind of trouble, but they were still deported.

Soon after the deportation, Martin paid the ultimate price and lost his life on February 27.

Now, he had existing heart problems, but his daughter, Maria, will tell you, "This administration separated my family and my dad died of a broken heart."

Maria and her brother are now forced to grieve alone, for their mother was also deported and has been barred from reentering the United States for a decade.

Maria and the rest of the Martinez family are forced to suffer the real human cost of this administration's policies. And it is stories like Martin's that so clearly demonstrate the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

Martin's story is the story of millions of immigrants. It is our story. And it is our responsibility to learn from it and to act. We can't bring back Martin Martinez, but we can do something to heal our country.

I AM STANDING FOR THE CHILDREN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, America is listening to the pain of so many of the Members, my colleagues, as we have experienced the devastation of watching families torn apart from their babies, their toddlers, their young children.

I spent my Sunday and Monday, Father's Day, looking at those who just simply wanted an opportunity, holding baby Roger in my hands, whose mother

had died and whose sister was ripped away from him and prosecuted criminally for entering the United States. Or baby Leah, who was 1 year old and was obviously fussy and had been in such a way that she was experiencing trauma.

And yet, we now have this executive order that looks as if the President has done something that he could not have done a few hours ago, which is picking up the telephone and telling the people at the border to cease and desist.

Those are good people who work there. They are only following orders. But this is a tragic executive order—it has no heart to it—because what it does is, yes, it keeps the families together in a criminal posture and houses them in the same conditions, now on military bases, rather than allowing them to proceed through court proceedings. In my southern district of Texas we have 50,000 cases in backlog because, as I go to the Budget Committee, this administration refuses to give us more judges.

Well, they are trying to open one of these places in my congressional district. And I want to congratulate Houston, because Houston is standing for humanity; it is standing, as the Pope has said, because everyone deserves dignity.

This executive order is not worth the paper it is written on because it could have been a phone call, not a demand that it is all of Congress' fault.

But I am standing for the children, and we are going to save them.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURAL GAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this House Energy and Commerce Special Order is to talk about America's energy dominance, especially with natural gas.

This conversation is very important today because the World Gas Conference happens in this town, Washington, D.C., next week. What a difference a decade makes.

When I joined Texas Senator Phil Gramm's office in 1998, one ugly word described American oil and natural gas. That word was peak.

Experts, here and around the world, said America had peaked in our production of oil and natural gas.

Every year, we would buy more oil and gas from foreign sources, and we had to buy oil from some companies that didn't like us very much and hurt us by taking oil away.

No one cared about a group called OPEC until they stopped the flow of oil that they had and that we needed.

OPEC was led by Arab nations who were upset that we resupplied our best ally ever, Israel, when they were invaded by their neighbors. It happened